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20 YEARS!
1987-2007
CKN
Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter

Two Roads Diverged...

It was late last summer when Marvel and Dabel Brothers Productions announced a partnership that would see DBPro titles solicited and distributed by Marvel—a move that opened up untapped markets for the publisher best known for its adaptations of SF and fantasy novels and novellas.

Now, almost exactly a year later, Marvel and the Dabel Brothers have mutually agreed to go their separate ways, with the titles already begun under the cooperative agreement remaining at Marvel while the Dabel Brothers develop further properties for distribution either as a self-published venture or in cooperation with another publisher.

This means that Marvel will continue the best-selling ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter*** series as well as ***George R.R. Martin's Hedge Knight, Orson Scott Card's Tales of Alvin Maker,*** and other projects.

"We have great respect for the Dabel Brothers' business and the relationships they have generated," Marvel publisher Dan Buckley said. "Our partnership has been an exciting experience for both companies. We wish the Dabels well in their future publishing endeavors and hope to work with them again, should the opportunity present itself."

"Working with Marvel was a dream come true for all of us, and we enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the comic book industry's market leader," *Ernst Dabel*, President of Dabel Brothers Productions, said. "We're looking forward to applying those lessons to our business as we resume our status as a self-publisher, and we plan to continue producing top-quality adaptations of best-selling science fiction, fantasy, horror and thriller novels by popular authors."

In addition to the already-launched projects, Marvel will publish two high-profile books under development as a part of the Marvel/DBPro cooperative venture: ***Lords of Avalon*** by *Kinley MacGregor* and ***Highwayman*** by *R.A. Salvatore.*

Publisher *Les Dabel* admits that it might appear that Marvel got the better end of the deal, and there have even been rumors of a fractious disagreement between the two publishers—but that's far from the truth. "Many people assume something bad happened, despite the fact that the press release Marvel put out summed the situation up nicely. The licenses that we have started already with Marvel are the ones that will continue with Marvel, but those are only a few of our projects.

"We can't go into the details about the deal structure, but we are leaving the partnership with Marvel extremely happy and on good terms. We've got many good things on the way, and we view this as a positive step."

While Marvel will continue to publish the books that began there as a part of the cooperative publishing venture, "we had other deals in the works for some time now that were not part of the Marvel arrangement and those are what we will be focusing our resources and energy on when we re-launch next year," *Les Dabel* said, adding that "we have so much more in store for the industry. I think a lot of people will be extremely pleased at what we're working on now."

Dabel feels that the year-long joint venture with Marvel was good for both companies. "Both sides are very happy with the end result. Marvel has always treated us well, and we expect to have a good relationship with them down the road. They're a great company, and we wish them luck with what we've left them. We certainly have no desire to see any of the titles we developed do anything other than be huge successes!"

So what are the Dabel Brothers working on? Their first big project is another licensed property: ***Frankenstein*** by *Dean Koontz*, based on Koontz's trilogy-in-the-making (two books have already been published, selling more than five million copies worldwide, and a third is in the works).

While the Dabels have been talking with Koontz about the project for several months, they had kept quiet about it during the convention season, when the news might have been buried in a flood of announcements from various publishers. "We love surprises," *Ernst Dabel* said, "and we're certain that many people will be absolutely stunned to hear that we're working with such a well-known author as *Dean Koontz*. And we're excited! Mr. Koontz is an amazing writer with some incredible ideas, and we're thrilled to have a chance to bring his ***Frankenstein*** story into the comic book medium."

"I'm delighted that Frankenstein will come to life in comic book form, and that the project is being guided by such capable hands as those of the Dabel Brothers," Koontz said. "I usually don't say things like 'they rock,' but it's inescapable: 'they rock.'"

DBPro's ***Frankenstein Book One: Prodigal Son,*** slated to premiere in February 2008, adapts Koontz's updated reworking of *Mary Shelley's* classic novel. Koontz moves the familiar tale of man-made life to New Orleans, where the mysterious Deucalion (previously known as Frankenstein's monster), and he's lived in the shadows of society for centuries, keeping the truth of his origins a secret. His arrival in the Big Easy coincides with the murderous activities of a serial killer.. and that makes *any* mysterious stranger an object of suspicion.

Detective Carson O'Connor and her partner, Michael Maddison, soon discover that their case is far more complex than anyone ever imagined, involving an ages-old conspiracy, a near immortal race of beings, and killers that are more—and less—than human. As it turns out, their quarry isn't merely a homicidal maniac, but is instead Deucalion's deranged maker, Dr. Frankenstein—now known as Victor Helios.

What other projects do the Dabels have in development—and will they remain focused on the fantasy/sf/horror genre? "We are going to continue working with best-selling authors, but we're *not* going to restrict ourselves to strictly sci-fi and fantasy," *Les Dabel* said. "What we've done so far is just the tip of the iceberg. If you thought ***Anita Blake*** was a big deal, wait until you see what we're working on now! I think we're going to blow some minds when we announce our full lineup. This week's news will be incredible enough, but once we reveal the other titles, I don't think anyone will be worrying about our standing in the industry. Instead, I think they'll be excited about what we're about to accomplish! We're in a great position to really begin putting out some incredible material in 2008. Our primary goal is to become 'the literary arm of the comic book industry,' and that's what we're aiming to do!"

by Matt Brady & Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

CSNsider

•Marvel's going back to press with ***Thor #2***, with a new *Olivier Coipel* wraparound cover; and ***World War Hulk #1***, with a new *John Romita Jr.* cover. Both of them should be in comic shops next week.

•Dark Horse is offering new printings of ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #s 1-4***; the cover art will be the same as the original printings, so you'll have to check inside to find out which printing is which!

•Dynamite Entertainment is offering an *Esteban Maroto* variant cover version of ***Red Sonja #25***; it should be in comic shops next week.

•***League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The Black Dossier***, the original graphic novel by *Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill*, will be offered with two different covers. The standard edition will feature a black border and will show Mina Harker running through a hall with the Black Dossier in hand; the variant edition will feature a blue background with Mina Harker in bed reading the Black

Publisher

Comic Shop News, Inc.

Editors

Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

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Editorial Office

2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
fax (928) 441-5990
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office

3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
fax (678) 669-1525
wbatty@csnsider.com
www.csnsider.com

Comic Shop Newsarama

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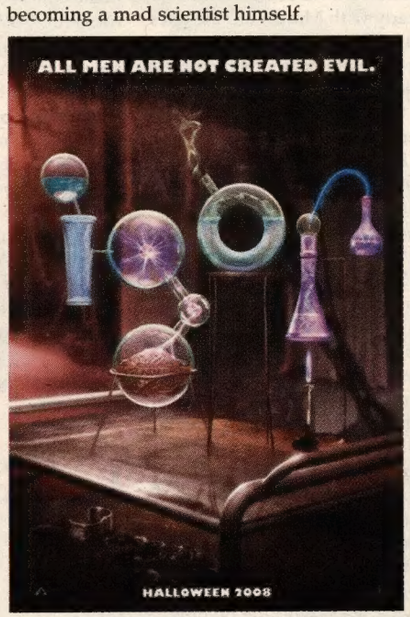
Dossier. Both versions are salted to be in stores on November 14th.

•*Gail Simone, Terry Dodson, & Rachel Dodson's* debut on ***Wonder Woman*** have been pushed back from #13 to #14. *J. Torres & Julian Lopez* supply the story for ***Wonder Woman #13***, an ***Amazons Attack*** aftermath story guest-starring Wonder Girl. "The reason we pushed back the new team's start is that Terry had a few other commitments, and we wanted to make sure we wouldn't have to interrupt his and Gail's run with a fill-in issue," Senior Editor *Matt Idelson* said.

•IDW has landed the rights to produce prequels and sequels to the animated film ***Igor***, which focuses on an archetypal mad scientist's hunchbacked assistant who dreams of becoming a mad scientist himself.



•*Christina Z* has been tapped to write *Jenna Jameson's* comic book creation, ***Shadow Hunter***, which will be published by (wait for it...) Virgin Comics.

•Three weeks ago, we told you that ***Spider-Man/Red Sonja*** had been shortened to a four-issue limited series; now Marvel has corrected that, assuring us that the book will run the full five issues as originally planned.

•Oops! A couple of weeks ago, we credited ***Wanted*** to writer *Warren Ellis;* of course, it was actually writer *Mark Millar* who co-created the series with artist *J.G. Jones!*

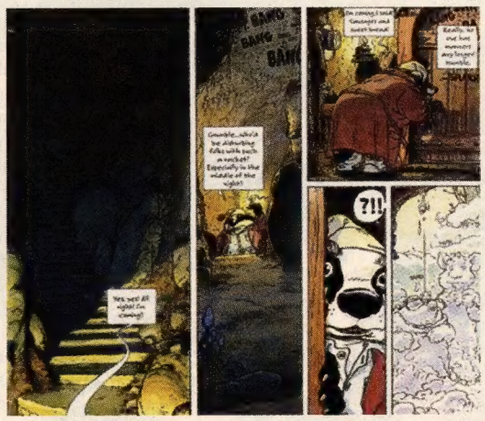
Return of a Classic Series

For almost four decades, ***Classics Illustrated*** held a distinctive place in comics book history as one of the most successful non-superhero lines ever published. Generations of readers became familiar with classic comics through these adaptations. And later this year, today's readers will be reintroduced to the classic series thanks to PaperCutz, which will bring the line back in two formats.

Classics Illustrated was the creation of *Albert Lewis Kanter*, a visionary publisher who believed he could use comics to introduce young readers to great literature. For thirty years, over 200 publications in Kanter's ***Classics Illustrated*** and ***Classics Illustrated Junior*** introduced young readers worldwide to literature, history, folklore, mythology, and science. Later, in the early 1990's, First comics and Berkley Publishing presented a new line of ***Classics Illustrated*** adaptations, featuring work by such creators as *Rick Geary, Bill Sienkiewicz, Kyle Baker, Gahan Wilson*, and others.

PaperCutz standard line of comics will feature reprints of many of the titles from the First-Berkley ***Classics Illustrated*** series; in addition, they will offer longer ***Classics Illustrated Deluxe*** volumes featuring all-new adaptations by some of the world's finest graphic novelists; these books will offer three to five times as many comic book pages as a standard ***Classics Illustrated*** adaptations.

The new line begins in November with the release of *Kenneth Grahame's* ***The Wind in the Willows***, a 144-page adaptation by French artist *Michel Plessix*. Future volumes will include ***Great Expectations*** by *Rick Geary*, followed by a ***Grimm's Fairy Tales***, ***The Invisible Man***, ***Oliver Twist***, ***Tom Sawyer***, and ***Robinson Crusoe***.



Wieringo Passes

Mike Wieringo , one of comics' most respected artists, died unexpectedly on August 12th at the age of 44; he suffered a heart attack that took his life before 911 emergency responders could arrive to offer medical aid. Wieringo, who was always drawing, posted his final sketch to his website on the Friday prior to his death.

Wieringo first made his mark in comics with his art for ***The Flash*** in the early 1990s. He and writer *Mark Waid* co-created Impulse, who went on to become the Flash before dying this past summer; he also worked on ***Robin***, ***Superman***, and ***Sensational Spider-Man***, but it was his work with *Mark Waid* on ***Fantastic Four*** that made him a major star; more recently, he has worked on ***Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man*** and the just-completed ***Spider-Man/Fantastic Four*** miniseries.

Wieringo also co-created (with writer *Todd Dezago)* the fantasy series ***Tellos***, which was collected in a single hefty hardcover that appeared just days after the artist's death.

Coming Comics— DC in November

The return of the original Legion of Super-Heroes continues in ***Action Comics #859*** by *Geoff Johns, Gary Frank, & Jonathan Sibal*. The Man of Steel's jump to the future is anything but idyllic as he finds a world torn apart by strife and a populace that has turned on the Legion of Super-Heroes — and it's all because of Superman!

Frank Miller & Jim Lee wrap up the first part of their Bat-tale in ***All-Star Batman & Robin, The Boy Wonder #8*** as the Dark Knight links a brutal psychopath to the Flying Grayson's murder, while Dick Grayson is reborn to wage war on crime! Meanwhile, the newly banded Justice League tries to catch a bat!

When the Outsiders attacks London to carry out a high-profile abduction, the world sees them as super-villains... and that's just what

Batman wants! Find out why in ***Batman & the Outsiders #2*** by *Tony Bedard, Koi Turnbull, & Art Thibert.*

Booster, Rip Hunter, Barry Allen, and Wally West are stranded in time with a broken cosmic treadmill in ***Booster Gold #4*** by *Geoff Johns, Jeff Katz, Dan Jurgens, & Norm Rapmund.* But why is Supernova on their tail... and what part does Dan Garrett, the Golden Age Blue Beetle, play in all this?

There's a Final Crisis on the horizon... and it's getting closer every week! In ***Countdown to Final Crisis #s 25-22***, Karate Kid makes it to the bunker in Blüdhaven and confronts both Firestorm and the Atomic Knights! Jimmy Olsen enslaved on Apokolips! Mary Marvel not enslaved on Apokolips! The Monitor, Jason Todd and Donna Troy home in on Ray Palmer's trail! Desaad takes control! Lex Luthor kidnapped — but by whom? Trickster and Piper: One will live...one will die! And Mister Mxyzptlk explains it all!

The search for Ray Palmer takes the Challengers of the Beyond into two very different worlds in ***Countdown Presents the Search for Ray Palmer: Gotham by Gaslight*** by *Brian Augustyn & Greg Tocchini* and ***Countdown Presents the Search for Ray Palmer: Red Rain*** by *Peter Johnson & Kelley Jones.*

Jaime Reyes gets an extra boost from the Beetle legacy via Ted Kord's gadgets and Dan Garrett's niece as he uncovers the Reach's plan for mind-controlling Earth in ***Blue Beetle #21.***

The Doom Patrol and the Flash join forces in ***The Brave & the Bold #8*** by *Mark Waid, George Perez, & Bob Wiacek.*

Who — or what — is responsible for the deaths of so many gods? How is Darkseid connected to them? And will Superman, Orion and Mr. Miracle be able to uncover Darkseid's schemes before it's too late? *Jim Starlin* reveals all in ***Death of the New Gods #3.***

"The Sinestro War" concludes in ***Green Lantern #25*** by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, Ethan Van Sciver, & Oclair Albert.* Why does Sinestro believe he has won? How will Hal Jordan stop his greatest enemy? What is the truth behind the prophecy of "The Blackest Night"? Where will the end results of this battle take the Green Lantern Corps? What is the bizarre fate of the Anti-Monitor? Why has Earth been assigned so many Green Lanterns? Learn all the secrets!

Peter Tomasi, Pat Gleason, & Prentis Rollins present a "Sinestro Corps War" epilogue in ***Green Lantern Corps #18*** as the Green Lantern Corps rises from the ashes to rebuild and continue their mission to protect the universe as the Guardians' recent decision in the midst of the Sinestro Corps War alters the Corps forever!

In ***JLA Classified #47***, *Mike W. Barr, Julian Lopez, & Bit* pit the classic JLA against an enemy who's managed to strip them of their weapons! Green Lantern without his ring! Wonder Woman without her lasso! Hawkman without his wings! Green Arrow without his arrows! The Atom without his size-changing belt! But these heroes are more than gadgets and gimmicks...

The holidays are a difficult time for anyone, and heroes are no exception—particularly those who have lost loved ones in the battle for justice. But heroes rarely have a moment to mourn, as Alan Scott finds when he most forego the annual JSA Thanksgiving dinner to save a little girl from an ancient evil in ***JSA Classified #32*** by *Junior Thomas, Staz Johnson, & Rodney Ramos.*

Russ Heath is guest artist for ***Jonah Hex #25***, which focuses on an older Jonah Hex's confrontation with his son... an encounter that can only end in violence!

"The Resurrection of Ra's al Ghul" crosses over into numerous bat-books this month, including ***Robin #168***, ***Nightwing #138***, ***Detective #838***, and ***Batman #671***. Never thought you'd see Nightwing, Robin, and Damian fighting side by side? Never thought you'd see a three-way face-off between Batman, Ra's al Ghul, and the Sensei? Just you wait!...

The world has finally had enough of the villains of the DCU — so they're exiling the evildoers to another planet, where they'll be left to their own diabolical devices! Who will thrive...and who will survive? Find out in ***Salvation Run***, a seven-part miniseries by *Bill Willingham, Sean Chen, & Walden Wong.*

The new creative team of *Kelley Puckett, Drew Johnson, & Ray Snyder* take the Teen of Steel in a new direction beginning in ***Supergirl #23***. It all begins with a bizarre delivery to Kara's apartment that very quickly has her hopping dimensions and traveling through deep space! Guest-starring Superman, Batman and the Green Lantern Corps!

Superman comes face to face with a mysterious third Kryptonian living on Earth in ***Superman #670*** by *Kurt Busiek, Rick Leonardi, & Dan Green...* and the mystery continues into ***Superman Annual #13*** by the same team, as the entire Superman family—Superman, Supergirl, Power Girl, Krypto, Chris Kent, and even Batman—makes a desperate last stand against a deadly threat to every Kryptonian in the universe!

Dr. Light is back — and he's got the Titans on his side! ***Identity Crisis*** showed how evil Dr. Light could be, but writers *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning* and artist *Mike McKone* take him to a new level in ***Superman/Batman #43.***

Vito Delsante, Julian Lopez, & Bit reveal how the Man of Steel first met original Green Lantern Alan Scott in ***Superman Confidential #9.***

Ion is the chosen one of the Green Lantern Corps, whose coming was foretold as a prophecy in the Book of Oa. But now that Kyle Rayner has been possessed by Parallax, can he ever bear the mantle of Ion again? Learn the answers in ***Tales of the Sinestro Corps Presents Ion #1*** by *Ron Marz & Michael Lacomb.*

Titans Tower is back up and running on the East Coast in ***Teen Titans East Special #1*** as *Judd Winick, Ian Churchill & Norm Rapmund* assemble an explosive new team of Titans under the leadership of Cyborg! But their first mission may be their last as powerful forces gather to destroy all Titans past and future!

Gail Simone, Terry Dodson, & Rachel Dodson begin their run in ***Wonder Woman #14***, a tale that focuses on The Circle—but who are they, and what deadly secret do they hold about Diana's birth?

DC collected editions include:

- ***The Atom: Future/Past***, collecting ***All New Atom #s 7-11***;
- ***Batman: The Man Who Laughs***, collecting the graphic novel along with ***Detective #s 784-786***;
- ***Batman/Superman: Saga of the Super-Sons***, collecting the Super Sons tales from ***World's Finest #s 215, 216, 221, 222, 224, 228, 230, 231, 233, 238, 242, 262***, and ***Elseworlds 80-Page Giant #1***;

- ***Countdown Special: Jimmy Olsen 80-Page Giant***, reprinting ***Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen #s 136 & 147-148***, featuring Jimmy's dealings with the DNAlien and Cadmus as told by *Jack Kirby;*
- ***The Flash: The Fastest Man Alive—Full Throttle***, collecting #s 7-13 and the Flash tale from ***DCU Infinite Holiday Special***;
- ***Harley Quinn: Preludes & Knock-Knock Jokes***, a hardcover compilation of ***Harley Quinn #s 1-7***;
- ***The Legion of Super-Heroes: An Eye for an Eye***, collecting the first six issues of 1984's Legion relaunch;
- ***The Spectre: Tales of the Unexpected***, collecting the Spectre tales from the eight-issue miniseries;
- ***Showcase Presents Jonah Hex Volume Two***, collecting ***Jonah Hex #s 1-22*** and ***Weird Western Tales #s 34-38***; and
- ***Showcase Presents Teen Titans Volume Two***, collecting the Silver Age ***Teen Titans #s 19-36***, ***Brave & Bold #s 83 & 94***, and ***World's Finest #205***; and
- ***Tales of the Multiverse: Batman—Vampire***, a trade paperback compiling ***Batman/Dracula: Red Rain***, ***Batman: Bloodstorm***, and ***Batman: Crimson Mist.***

Continued on page 6

On May 15th 1962, he began a lifetime of heroism

On September 5th 2007, he only has One More Day

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #544

J. Michael Straczynski • Joe Quesada

Variant Cover by Marko Djurdjevic

Nothing is Forever

MARVEL YOUR UNIVERSE

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Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in November

It's a splatterpunk extravaganza as two of horror's most brutal killers confront a chainsaw-wielding hero in ***Freddy Vs. Jason Vs. Ash***, a six-part miniseries by *Jeff Katz, James Kuhoric, & Jason Craig* produced in conjunction with Dynamite Entertainment. In the bloody wake of the hit movie Freddy vs. Jason, Freddy Krueger finds himself clinging to the last shred of fear that allows him to exist...inside the demented mind of Jason Voorhees. Unwillingly bonded together, the murderous pair must seek out the Necronomicon, the only solution to their mutual torment. Nothing can stop this unholy alliance -- except the wisecracking, chainsaw-wielding Ash, aimed at destroying the Book of the Dead once and for all!

Writer *Simon Oliver* joins artists *Carlo Barberi & Drew Geraci* with ***Gen13 #14***. After surviving the last, brutal gasp of the Tabula Rasa, the kids decide to do what any other teenage superhero team would want to do — they head to New York City!

You may have read parts of it online, but the entire ***Heroes*** comics saga is making its long-overdue print appearance this fall to coincide with the series' second season. This collection, which is offered with covers by *Alex Ross* and *Jim Lee*, includes an introduction by *Masi Oka* (Hiro), all thirty-four chapters of Season One by *Aron Eli Coleite, Phil Jimenez, Michael Turner, Koi Turnbull, Peter Steigerwald, Staz Johnson*, and others, along with *Tim Sale's* artwork as seen on the show.

Walter Simonson, Ludo Lullabi, & Sandra Hope bring the ultra-popular multiplayer videogame to comics with the release of ***World of Warcraft #1***. The adventure begins when a human is found unconscious on the shores of Kalimdor, with no memory of who he is or how he arrived there. Enslaved by the Orc Shaman Rehgar Earthfury, this man must fight for survival against members of both the Alliance and the Horde, striking uneasy relationships with other races in his quest to find the secrets of his past!

Caitlin is pulled into the post-apocalyptic future by Void in ***Gen13: Armageddon #1***, by *Christos Gage & Jonboy Meyers*—and what's become of Gen13 is heartbreaking! Lost amid the wastes of middle America, the teens will be forced into a grim decision for their very survival.

The devastating view of a post-apocalyptic WildStorm Universe continues as Maximum Man witnesses what becomes of his beloved town in ***Tranquility: Armageddon*** by *Christos Gage, Neil Googe, & Horacio Domingues*. But are things as bad for a city populated almost entirely by superheroes as they are for the rest of the world? And if not, won't others come looking to take Tranquility's resources for themselves?

Dane is taken to a post-apocalyptic future to witness what became of Wetworks—and is astounded by the horror he finds—in ***Wetworks: Armageddon #1*** by *Christos Gage & Brandon Badeaux*.

Outstanding art by *Bryan Hitch, Frank Quitely, Gene Ha, Bruce Timm, Kyle Baker, Matt Wagner*, and others is spotlighted in ***WildStorm Fine Arts Special: Spotlight on the Authority***.

WildStorm collected editions include:

- ***Danger Girl: Body Shots***, collecting the four issue miniseries; and
- ***Welcome to Tranquility Volume One***, collecting the first six issues of the *Gail Simone-Neil Googe* series.

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in November

Russ Braun signs on as artist beginning with ***Jack of Fables #17***, joining *Bill Willingham & Matthew Sturges* for a story that answers a lot of questions. For instance, why has Jack been carrying that briefcase around all this time? Why is Paul Bunyan buying big pants? Who is Dash Weinstein and why is he risking it all for a girl with million-dollar gams?

Hellblazer: Bloodlines collects a heaping helping of *Garth Ennis* tales from ***Hellblazer #49, 52-55, & 59-61***.

DC Direct in April 2008

DC's thinking big with the release of the first in a series of 1:2 scale busts. ***Batman 1:2 Scale Bust***, sculpted by *Colby Jukes*, features lifelike facial details, as well as finely tailored fabric costume fitting the cold-cast porcelain body. Each bust in the series has a consistent base design and a unique logo plaque.

Oliver Queen is the latest hero to get the 1:6 scale treatment with the release of the ***Green Arrow 13" Deluxe Collector Figure***. This figure comes clothed in one of the most intricate and authentically detailed fabric costumes of the 1:6 scale line and includes a display stand, an arsenal of trick arrows and a unique collapsible bow.

DC continues its anime-influenced vinyl statue line with ***Ame-Comi Power Girl Vinyl Figure*** and ***Ame-Comi Supergirl Vinyl Figure***, both designed by *Udon Studios*.

Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and arch-villain ***Ra's al Ghul*** are spotlighted in the ***Trinity Action Figure Series***.

Jack Kirby's cosmic creations are the focus of the ***New Gods Action Figures Series***, featuring ***Orion, Lightray, Mister Miracle***, and ***Darkseid***.

DC Direct's new comic book cover portfolio series spotlights the work of covers by fan favorite artists, beginning with the exquisite art of *Adam Hughes*. ***Comic Book Cover Portfolio #1: Women of the DC Universe*** consists of twelve full-color matte images on high-quality paper stock (suitable for framing), all approximately 9" x 14", collected into twin two-color 10" x 15" custom folders which are shrink-wrapped together.

Terry Dodson's art is the inspiration for the ***Women of the DC Universe Series 2: Cheetah Bust***, sculpted by *Jack Mathews*.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in November

Blood+ Volume One kicks off a new manga series by *Asuka Katsura* that is set several decades after the events of the ***Blood: The Last Vampire*** anime.

Brian K. Vaughan & Georges Jeanty continue the adventures of Faith on the trail of a rogue Slayer in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #8***. The situation gets more complex when Buffy shows up, only to be confronted by her longtime nemesis.

Eric Powell's ***The Goon*** becomes the tenth in Dark Horse's series of ***Classic Comic Book Character*** syroco-styled statues. (Advance-solicited; look for it in April.)

The third release in the ***Elfquest Bust Series***, based on the art of *Wendy Pini*, spotlights ***Skywise***. *Tim Bruckner* translates Pini's art into three dimensions with this sculpture designed to fit alongside the first two busts or to be displayed on its own.

In *Rick Remender & Jerome Opena's* four-part ***Fear Agent: Hatchet Job***, Heath and Mara are forced to separate on two desperate missions to either relocate the remnants of humanity to a new world or cleanse Earth of the infestation of Feeder aliens.

ReelArt and Dark Horse collaborate to translate the stunning art of *Frank Frazetta* into three dimensions in the ***Frank Frazetta Moon Maid Statue***, the second in an ongoing collection of Frazetta-inspired statues. *Tim Bruckner* does the sculpting honors on this 10" tall piece.

The original Grendel, Hunter Rose, returns in *Matt Wagner's* eight-part ***Grendel: Behold the Devil #1***. This is an untold chapter in the life of the greatest criminal mastermind in history—a thrilling and horrifying glimpse into a time when Rose's novels were at the top of all the bestseller lists and rumors of the assassin Grendel were on the lips of every terrified mobster unfortunate enough to present an obstacle to Rose's utter domination of the city's underworld.

The Emperor's personal bodyguards are the latest vinyl offerings from the premiere Japanese statue manufacturer. ***Kotobukiya Royal Guard Vinyl Model Kit*** stands almost a foot tall, presenting a Royal Guardsman poised with Force Pike in hand.

Peter David, Bart Sears, & Randy Elliott introduce the troubled Danny Duncan in the four-part series ***The Scream***, created by Dark Horse publisher *Mike Richardson*. Danny's life is a mess—a dull job, an elderly father slipping into senility, and problems fitting in since his release from the Belle Foux treatment facility. People are behaving strangely around him, as if they're reacting to his thoughts and daydreams . . . What is this strange phenomenon, and how is it tied to Danny's recent stay at Belle Foux?

The line of ***Serenity*** ornaments continues with the release of the ***Serenity Reaver Ship Ornament***, advance-solicited for February release. Hey, don't think of it as a few months too late... think of it as nine months early!

Matthew & Shawn Fillbach present another collection of all-ages tales in ***Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume Ten.***

Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic Handbook presents illustrated profiles on Padawan Zayne Carrick and his outlaw friends; Lucien and the Covenant; Squint and the Jedi Crusaders; the Mandalorian invaders; and more!

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***Batman/Grendel***, a 300-copy limited edition hardcover of the various *Matt Wagner* crossover tales, each signed and numbered with a new Wagner illustration on the signing plate;
- ***BPRD: Garden of Souls***, collecting the miniseries by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Guy Davis*;
- ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Omnibus Volume Three***, collecting ***Play With Fire, Spike & Dru***, and the first eight issues of the original ***Buffy*** series;
- ***Conan: The Blood-Stained Crown & Other Stories***, collecting ***Conan #s 18, 26-28, & 39***;
- ***Dark Horse Heroes Omnibus***, collecting ***Comics' Greatest World*** and ***Will to Power*** in one hefty 424-page volume;
- ***The Goon: Fancy Pants Volume 2—The Rise & Fall of the Diabolical Dr. Alloy***, collecting all of *Eric Powell's* Dr. Alloy tales in one signed hardcover;
- ***Little Lulu Volume Eighteen: The Expert***, collecting another heaping helping of *John Stanley-Irving Tripp* all-ages gems;
- ***Star Wars 30th Anniversary Collection Volume Eleven: Union***, collecting the story arc by *Michael Stackpole, Robert Teranishi, & Chris Chuckry*; and
- ***Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic Volume Three—Days of Fear, Nights of Anger***, collecting ***Knights of the Old Republic #s 13-18***.

A Personal Note

On August 14th, *Don Biggers* passed away at the age of 75. He was a veteran newspaperman who worked as a reporter, columnist, editor, and vice-president of publishing for the ***Rome News-Tribune*** and affiliated newspapers during his 38-year career. He was also my father, and his unceasing enthusiasm for writing and reporting inspired me in my earliest writing attempts.

Dad bought my first comics for me—a ***Casper***, a ***Dennis the Menace***, a ***Superman***, and a pre-hero issue of ***Journey Into Mystery***—just prior to my fifth birthday; he often joked that he had no idea what he was getting into! He encouraged my enjoyment of comics as well as my passion for writing; without his guidance and influence, there would never be a ***Comic Shop News***.

At his funeral, I was amazed that every one of his friends, from golfing buddies to former co-workers to neighbors, knew about me and my work with ***Comic Shop News***; they all told me how Dad spoke proudly of my work here and my ongoing love for comics.

Thanks, Dad... hope everything's just wonderful for you now!

PREVIEWS

One Catalog. TONS of Cool Stuff.

From comic books to action figures, games to DVDs, there's something for everyone in the September issue of Previews!

ON THE COVER ...

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WORLD OF WARCRAFT #1—Writer Walt Simonson and artists Ludo Lullabi and Sandra Hope present the first issue in the new ongoing DC/Wildstorm series based on the *World of Warcraft*, the world's most popular massively multiplayer online game!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS #7—A city infected by the Venom Symbiote! The ongoing Skrull conspiracy! A crossover with the *New Avengers*! And the debut of a new *Mighty Avenger* makes this issue one not to miss!

540+ pages of cool stuff that starts shipping in November!

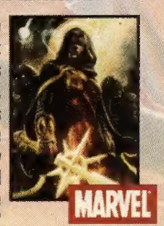
CHECK OUT THESE OFFERINGS:

Grendel: Behold The Devil #1—For the first time in over a decade, Hunter Rose, the original Grendel, returns in an untold chapter in the life of the greatest criminal mastermind in history! Written and drawn by Grendel creator Matt Wagner, and only from Dark Horse!

Salvation Run #1—When the world has finally had enough of the villains of the DCU, they exile them to another planet, where they are left to their own diabolical devices! Who will thrive...and who will survive? Find out when Bill Willingham & Sean Chen take the *Salvation Run*!

Captain Victory and The Galactic Rangers HC—Image Comics' archival collections of Jack "King" Kirby's creator-owned works continues with *Captain Victory*! Featuring lovingly re-constructed color work, this deluxe hardcover edition collects *Captain Victory #1-13* and *Captain Victory Special #1*

Annihilation: Conquest #1—The next *Annihilation* main event starts here! All of the various threads begin to weave together... and if you thought the surprises were over, think again! What are the Phalanx really after? What new players will change the game? And what last-page reveal will leave your jaw hanging?



AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS:

- **Women of the DCU2: Cheetah Bust** from DC Direct!
- **Marvel Milestones: Zombie Spider-Man vs. Venom Statue** from Diamond Select Toys!
- **Lost Season 3 Trading Cards** in the Trading Cards Section!
- **Robby the Robot Die-Cast Figures** in the Import Toys Section!
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THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUES

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